

Summary Notes

Tomales Bay Vessel Management Working Group

Meeting 1, March 27, 2008

1. Background and looking ahead

Maria Brown reviewed the timeline handout in the binder. She pointed out the history of actions taken before the release of the Document for Public Input in 2007 and reviewed the planned actions and activities in the future.

Discussion followed about whether or not there was commitment by the agencies to act since this has been such a long process. Maria noted that GFNMS has hired a contractor, Miriam Gordon, to see this process through.

2. Roles of the Participants and Rules of the Road

Dominique reviewed the roles of staff, versus facilitators versus working group members. He also noted that this is a public process and that the meetings will be posted on the website and the meetings are open to the public. Public comment will not be taken at the meetings, but the public is encouraged to discuss any outstanding issues to working group members during meeting breaks or before or after meetings.

Miriam discussed that we hope that members to feel that they can come to the table, think outside the box and make suggestions or recommendations that help further the process.

Mission

The mission statement was placed in the parking lot until the list of issues was going to be discussed. Working group members discussed the need to understand the mandates of each agency with jurisdiction over Tomales Bay in order to make informed recommendations.

STAFF ACTION>> Overview of the mandates of each of the agencies will be provided at the next meeting.

ACTION>> Mission statement was adopted, noting changes to the “Issues Overview” document.

Ground Rules

ACTION>> The working group unanimously adopted the ground rules with no changes.

Binder

Miriam went over the binder contents. Maria noted that the map of proposed seagrass regulations are still currently proposed and a final rule has not been issued but may be out as early as the fall.

3. Issues Overview

There was a discussion about the scope of what the working group would be doing. Maria clarified that the working group will forward recommendations and information, but will not be evaluating impacts from any proposed recommendations. The impacts evaluation will be done through the environmental analysis.

ACTION>> The following changes were made to the Issues Overview document:

- Consensus decision to add a sentence that includes: discussion of existing moorings and a recommendation to issue #5.
- Add that it's a long-term goal seek a federal "no discharge zone"
- Add the word mooring to issue #6.
- Add "how best to prevent anchoring in seagrass beds" to issue #9
- Last sentence from #1 to be deleted.

ACTION>> Adopted list of issues with changes. Members agree to be able to revisit a list of issues over time.

NOTE FROM MARIA: We need to clarify the "issues overview" document. Where it says IAC, it should read SAC. An updated document will be given at the next meeting.

4. Live-aboard Issue

There was a discussion about the live-aboard issue. Maria explained that this issue is not under Sanctuary authority, but we can recommend that the agencies with the authority address this issue. State Lands Commission noted that it has a no live-aboard policy.

ACTION>> Working group made a recommendation that the GFNMS include SLC and NPS regulation on live-aboards in Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan.

5. Common Ground

Miriam discussed the areas of commonality. She went over the points noted in the document, "Shooting for the win-win" provided in binder. Dominique discussed the qualities that the group has to bring to the table such as honesty, openness, and willingness to work together.

STAFF ACTION>> Email the revised criteria out to the group.

6. Siting Environmental Services (Oil and Sewage)

Jeremy went over the document titled "Vessel-oriented waste management on Tomales Bay"

Points: Don't have a dump station, but there are a lot of day-users, so there is a need for a dump stations. There was an overall discussion of grant opportunities, sites for pump-out stations and dump stations, and additional information needed.

STAFF ACTION>> compare the DBW document with the document Jeremy provided.

STAFF ACTION >> investigate if boat chemicals can be put into community sewer system

STAFF ACTION >> capacity of new Marshall sewer system to accept waste from a sewage pump-out facility

STAFF ACTION>> determine whether Clean Vessel Act funds can be used to fund a sewage system at a federal facility

STAFF ACTION>> investigate potential liability re: sewage pump-out spills, possibility of indemnification, whether insurance is required and whether it would cover spills

STAFF ACTION>> investigate what information DBW needs to fund a dump station such as a formal assessment

ACTION>>The working group recommends a dump station at Miller Park.

STAFF ACTION >>Feasibility issues identified:

- Is there going to be water to clean out port-a-potty? Will salt water suffice?
- Meet with Dept of Parks and Recreation to figure out the issue with the Dump Station and possibly invite them to the next meeting
- Might need to do some education to those who may object
- Port-potty dump systems need to be investigated- do they need electricity?
- Find out what the community resistance / issues were when this project was being planned- talk to Marin Co. Parks

ACTION>> Lawson's Landing is investigating putting in a port-o-potty dump station.

Working Group will discuss Environmental Services siting at the next meeting. Flag the Golden Hind and Marconi Cove as possible sites for discussion.